

**REMARKS**

Claims 3-10 and 12 are pending. By this Amendment, Claims 1-2 and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 3-4 are amended. Applicant respectfully submits no new material is presented herein.

**Formal Matters**

Figures 9-12 and 14 are objected to and should be designated by a legend, such as --Prior Art--, because only that which is old is illustrated. In response to the objection, Applicant encloses herein replacement sheets of Figures 9-12 and 14, which have been amended to include a --Prior Art--. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. §1.84(p)(5) for including a reference sign, i.e., W, that is not mentioned in the Specification. Applicant respectfully points out the Specification is amended herein to mention reference sign "W," thereby rendering the objection moot. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

The Abstract is objected to for informalities therein. Enclosed herein is a Substitute Abstract, which is to be substituted for the originally filed Abstract and addresses the objection. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

The disclosure is objected to for informalities therein. Applicant has amended the Specification herein to address the objection. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

**Claims 3-10 and 12 Recite Patentable Subject Matter**

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the applicant's admitted prior art (AAPA). Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA. Claims 1 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kakizaki (JP 10-056057). Applicant respectfully notes Claims 1-2 and 11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby rendering the rejection moot. As such, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Claims 3-10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of Fujitsu (JP 09-122610). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Independent Claim 3 recites a process for preventing dust generation of a wafer storage case, including the steps of: coating a surface of the wafer storage case of synthetic resin housing wafers with a coating agent; drying the wafer storage case coated with the coating agent; cleaning the dried wafer storage case and removing particles on a surface of a coating layer using pure water such that the coating layer of the coating agent remains across the surface of the wafer storage case; and drying the cleaned wafer storage case, wherein dust generation from the surface of the wafer storage case is prevented by the coating layer of the coating agent.

Independent Claim 4 recites a process for preventing dust generation of a wafer storage case, including the steps of: coating a surface of the wafer storage case of synthetic resin housing wafers with a coating agent; cleaning the wafer storage case and removing particles on a surface of a coating layer using pure water such that the coating layer of the coating agent remains across the surface of the wafer storage case;

and drying the cleaned wafer storage case, wherein dust generation from the surface of the wafer storage case is prevented by the coating layer of the coating agent.

The Office Action asserts it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to substitute the surfactant cleaning step of the AAPA with the surfactant application step and drying step taught by Fujitsu.

Applicant has reviewed the applied art of record and respectfully disagrees with the Office Action's argument for the following reasons.

The process taught by the AAPA/Fujitsu combination requires: (a) a step of applying layer of surfactant to the article (Fujitsu); (b) a step of drying the article (Fujitsu); (c) a first washing step (AAPA & Fujitsu); (d) a second washing step (AAPA & Fujitsu); and (e) another drying step (AAPA & Fujitsu).

As shown in Figs. 3 and 4, the amended Claims 3 and 4 require the steps of "cleaning the dried wafer storage case and removing particles on a surface of coating layer using pure water such that the coating layer of the coating agent remains across the surface of the wafer storage case;". As a result, dust generation is effectively prevented by blocking or suppressing free movement of particles constantly generated from a surface of a wafer storage case of a synthetic resin with a coating layer of a surfactant.

On the other hand, both Fujitsu and AAPA only disclose the conventional cleaning step, as shown in Fig. 14. As a result, dust generation constantly generated from a surface of a wafer storage case of a synthetic resin with a coating layer of a surfactant cannot be prevented.

Thus, since the object of the present invention cannot be achieved by the cited references, it is obvious that certain clear differences exist between the amended Claims 3 and 4 and the references.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the Office Action has not established *prima facie* obviousness of Claims 3-4 as outlined in M.P.E.P. §2143.03 since neither the AAPA and/or Fujitsu, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the features recited by Claims 3-4. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits pending Claims 3-4 are not rendered obvious by the AAPA and/or Fujitsu. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits pending Claims 3-4 should be deemed allowable.

Claims 2-10 and 12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claims 3-4. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims be deemed allowable for the same reasons Claims 3-4 are allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

Claims 5-9 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of Fujitsu and U.S. Patent No. 6,158,721 to Katou et al. (hereinafter "Katou"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 5-9 and 12 depend, either directly or indirectly, from Claims 3-4, which are discussed above. As noted above, the AAPA and Fujitsu fail to teach or suggest each and every feature recited by Claims 3-4. Katou simply teaches controlling the resistivity of pure water used in a cleaning process and does not address or overcome the drawbacks of the AAPA and/or Fujitsu teachings.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits the Office Action has not established *prima facie* obviousness of Claims 5-9 and 12 as outlined in M.P.E.P. §2143.03 since neither the AAPA, Fujitsu, and/or Katou, alone or in combination, teach or suggest all of the features recited by Claims 3-4, let alone the additional subject matter recite in Claims 5-9 and 12. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits pending Claims 5-9 and 12 are not rendered obvious by the teachings of the AAPA, Fujitsu, and/or Katou. Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits pending Claims 5-9 and 12 should be deemed allowable for at least the same reasons Claims 3-4 are allowable, as well as for the additional subject matter recited therein.

Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection.

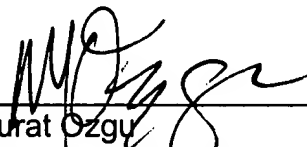
### **Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, allowance of Claims 3-10 and 12, and the prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowability are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to counsel's Deposit Account No. 01-2300, **referencing docket number 107242-00021.**

Respectfully submitted,  
**ARENT FOX PLLC**



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Enclosures: Replacement Figures 9-12 and 14  
Petition for Extension of Time